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interesting to those who, having followed us in our remarks upon the past and present position of the Academy, are desirous of receiving a practical proof of the talent contained within its walls. Foremost amongst the compositions of the students, we must mention the first movement of a Symphony by Mr. Alwyn, which is not only based upon the enduring models bequeathed to us by the greatest writers, but instinct with a true perception of orchestral colouring. A Capriccio, with full instrumental accompaniments, the composition of Mr. W. Shakspeare (who most ably performed his own work), is also full of good writing, and shows that the young composer's talents have been directed in the right school. A vocal trio by Mr. Jackson, is excellently written for the voices; and a very pleasing part-song, by Miss Dowling, proved that the male students have not absorbed the whole of the creative musical talent in the Institution. The pianoforte playing was uniformly good. Mr. Alwyn performed the first movement of Ferdinand Hiller's Concerto, in F sharp minor, with a decision and real musical feeling scarcely to be expected from one so young—Miss Buer (of whom we have already made favourable mention at Mr. Walter Macfarren's Recitals) gave the first movement of Beethoven's Concerto in E flat, with true perception of the meaning of the composer—Miss Vokins played Mendelssohn's Fantasia in F sharp minor, with judgment and earnest appreciation of the work; and Mr. Kemp, in Bach's "Chromatic Fantasia," exhibited a well trained finger, and an intimate knowledge of the severest school of pianoforte playing. Several vocal pieces were sung with much effect by Misses De Chastelaine, R. Jewell, Home, A. Lohman, Gardner, Severn, Christian, Lanham, &c. A very commendable performance of a portion of Mendelssohn's music to *Athalie* was also given, the solo parts being ably sustained by Misses Ryall, R. Jewell, Greenaway, Christian, Lohman, A. Lohman, Lanham, De Chastelaine, and Home. The concert was ably conducted by Mr. Otto Goldschmidt. At the conclusion of the performance the prizes were distributed by Lady Thompson (well known as a former pupil of the Academy as Miss Kate Loder). The silver medals were awarded to Miss R. Jewell, and Mr. W. Shakspeare; and bronze medals to Misses Dowling and Lohman, and Mr. Alwyn—other prizes being assigned to Misses Scates, Vokins, Severn, De Chastelaine, Buer, Ryall, Lanham, and Tovey; Messrs. Townsend, J. Jackson, Cover, Richards, and Kemp. The following received honourable mention: Misses Cullenford, Field, Gardner, L. Gardner, Waite, Christian, Watson, Home, Greenaway, Goode, and Sharpe; Messrs. Randall, Heywood, Cook, Beardwell, and Pettitt.

### GENOA.

A BRIEF latter-summer season of operatic performances, at the Paganini Theatre, commenced on the 1st ult., with a revival of Cimarosa's graceful opera, *Il Matrimonio Segreto*. The vocalists were of level merit in both senses; being of an ordinary grade in excellence, and being all on an equal scale of talent among themselves. There was this advantage in their uniformity; they none of them outshone the other, so that there was no discrepancy or disproportion; while a general effect of smoothness and evenness was imparted to the whole representation. The compact little company of six personages, engaged in this drawing-room opera, were so well trained to sing together, that they were, in their way, perfect; and the impression produced was thoroughly agreeable. The audience had been prepared to receive the music favorably, notwithstanding its being of somewhat antiquated fashion for the taste of modern hearers, from having listened to a selection brought forward in the spring of this year by Maestro Lavagnino at his Classical Concerts; when its delicacies of composition, its melodious movements, its playful elegance, introduced themselves to appreciative acquaintance among Genoese diletanti for the first time. On the present occasion, when

its stage production had the advantage of Maestro Lavagnino's conductorship, the needful effect of ease and precision in performance was enhanced by the admirable way in which the orchestra was kept properly subdued when supporting the singers; and the mode in which the recitatives were accompanied deserves peculiar praise. To those who, like ourselves, can recall the time when Lablache, Rubini, Santini, Malibran, and the two Sontags, gave their consummately finished performance of this charming carpet opera, it was no slight pleasure to hear Cimarosa's music as creditably executed as it was lately by Signori Giuseppe Scheggi, Luigi Paoletti, Filippo Graziosi, and Signore Rachele Graziosi, Angiolina Paoletti, and Marianna Sabatini, in Genoa. This short opera season at the Paganini Theatre is to follow with performances of *Norma*, *Saffo*, *Otello*, and *Maria di Rohan*; in all of which Carolina Ferni will sustain the part of Prima Donna.

WE regret to say that Mr. Bowley, the able Manager of the Crystal Palace, has lately sustained a severe loss in the death of his son, Kanzow Thomas Bowley, which occurred on the 10th ult., in his 30th year, leaving a wife and family to mourn his untimely decease. We feel certain that our readers will deeply sympathize with the grief of Mr. Bowley, who has for so many years devoted his best energies to the spread of sacred music in this country.

THE ORCHESTRAL UNION.—This Association, which achieved so much popularity under the direction of the late Mr. Alfred Mellon, has been revived under the conductorship of Mr. F. Kingsbury.

WE are glad to find that our articles upon the slang songs of the day have been ably seconded by our contemporaries. Amongst others which have come before us, we have been struck with a paper in *Once a Week*, on "Popular Songs," the following extract from which fully reflects our opinion upon the subject:—

"There have been tirades innumerable against fast novels, fast dress, fast conversation, fast men, and fast women, but fast music has been allowed to remain in tolerable tranquillity. And yet it is doing its part in degenerating the age. Fast words and jingling music, it is difficult to say which is the poorer. But if there is only a chorus or a ridiculous refrain, the thing is a perfect success. What can be more senseless than

'Slap-bang, here we are again!

Jolly, jolly dogs are we.'

And yet at one time it was as the Vox populi, and was heard everywhere, until I believe that the author himself was ashamed of the popularity that it had attained. Later we have been saluted at every corner with the equally senseless

'Oh no, no; not for Joe,

Not if he knows it,

Not for Joseph.'

Yet such songs are becoming, in a great measure, the national music of the English, and as long as they are in the ascendant, must produce a depraved taste;—for they are not a foundation upon which anything great or solid can be raised. There is an utterly vulgar spirit pervading them, nothing elevating, seldom even anything truly humorous; most of them are rapid and pointless; dependent simply upon some slang phrase or expression deftly introduced to catch the ear. The only merit they possess is that their day is soon over, and they are forgotten."

WE understand that the Electric Organ from Her Majesty's Opera, Drury Lane, is being erected at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, above the proscenium in the great theatre. Messrs. Bryceson have to construct a large and powerful Electric Organ, to suit the requirements of Her Majesty's Opera, Haymarket, now being rebuilt after the fire, and which will be opened next season.

The marriage of Madlle. Adelina Patti to the Marquis de Caux, took place on Wednesday, the 29th July, at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Clapham Park Road. Amongst the musical artists present at the ceremony were Madame Grisi, and three of her children: Mr. Costa, Mr. Gye, Signori Mario, Tagliafico, &c. We are glad to hear that Madlle. Adelina Patti—for opera-frequenter can never know her by any other name—will remain upon the stage for two years more.